

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/30/08 – 12/13/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter received information that a sport utility vehicle (SUV) may have been involved in a poaching incident. CO Painter searched for the vehicle and located the SUV at a residence a short distance from where a deer was illegally taken. CO Painter tried numerous times to contact the subject at the residence, but no one would answer the door. The next day the subject contacted CO Painter and revealed he had shot one deer with a spotlight and a second buck using the license of another. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery located a bait pile near a small stream that looked to be used from a camp on the opposite side of a river. CO Emery stopped at the camp to investigate and found the camp owner to be hunting with a .308 rifle a day before the opening of the UP muzzleloader season.

CO Grant Emery obtained a confession from a hunter who had shot a bear near the end of firearm deer season. The subject stated the bear would not leave his bait pile so he shot it and hid it in the woods.

CO Jason Wicklund and PCO Kevin Postma checked a group of anglers fishing after dark. The subjects had two extra tip-ups out and an undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted two subjects ice fishing north of Marquette. They were using a total of eight tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund and PCO Kevin Postma conducted several deer processor inspections. Various violations were addressed, including CWD violations, tagging violations, and illegal deer.

CO Brian Bacon issued a ticket to a hunter who was in violation of the baiting regulations. While contacting the hunter, the CO observed blood in the truck that the hunter stated belonged to another member of his hunting party. Along with CO Jason Wicklund, the party was contacted and several deer were located with multiple tagging violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery is investigating a local logger who was involved with a timber trespass complaint. Charges are being sought in Gogebic County.

CO Grant Emery assisted with one snowmobiler who had gone through the ice on Lake Gogebic. Luckily, the subject was only in four feet of water and was able to get out safely.

COs Mark Leadman, Mike McDonnell, and Trey Luce assisted the Special Investigations Unit with complaints of unlicensed taxidermists operating in the Marquette area. Two subjects were cited for doing taxidermy work without a license.

CO Jason Niemi followed up on a hunter harassment complaint in which a subject dragged a headless deer to the edge of his property line and posted it with a note stating, "Private property, do not touch." This stemmed from his belief that the adjacent hunter was hunting too close to his property line. When the person in question was contacted, it was discovered that his wife had shot an eleven-point and an eight-point the opening day of firearm deer season. Her husband had tagged one of the deer so she could continue hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Trey Luce stopped to assist a snowmobiler stuck in the ditch. It was discovered that he was without a trail permit and operating while suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Reid Roeske and PCO Robert Crisp followed illegal ORV tracks into the woods after dark on the opening day of muzzleloader season. Along the trail they found a sled with fresh blood on it. When they located the two ORVs there was no one around, and an illegal bait pile, and illegal blind. The COs waited and soon heard voices approaching. Two men showed up dragging an untagged deer. Further investigation led to another illegal deer hidden under some balsam trees. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel responded to a call of a shot fired behind a residence well after dark. Investigation revealed fresh tracks behind the house which led to a freshly killed doe. Interviews with the people in the house led to the confession to shooting the deer after dark with a centerfire rifle.

CO Mike Hammill and Sgt. Dave Rantanen followed up on a complaint of late shooting in Schoolcraft County. After three hours of searching roads and blinds, the COs came upon a vehicle parked behind trees out of view from the road. The COs walked to a blind that had three overbaited shooting lanes and a hunter with a loaded gun; the time was 10:45 p.m. Enforcement action was taken. Two days later COs Hammill and Derek Miller ticketed the same hunter in the same blind after he added more bait.

COs Kyle Publiski and Gerald Thayer teamed up on what turned out to be "crossbow day". One subject was contacted regarding a bait violation. CO Thayer observed blood near the bait pile which led to a claim of shooting from a slatted window. This led to a subject who eventually confessed regarding the crossbow use. Enforcement action taken regarding both the bait and the crossbow.

COs Kyle Publiski and Gerald Thayer apprehended another subject hunting with a crossbow and determined that he had used it to kill three deer in recent days. Enforcement action taken.

CO Gerald Thayer investigated an incident involving a hunter shooting from the road and neighbors who suspected trespass. The hunter killed a deer and drove off before retrieving it. The neighbors tagged the deer and retrieved it while the hunter was gone. He returned just as the neighbors were finishing up. Tickets were issued for tagging the deer of another and shooting within a safety zone.

Several more tickets for bait violations have been issued. One subject was sure that if he separated all the good hay from the bad hay contained in the bale he had placed, it would not amount to more than two gallons.

DISTRICT 3

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Mark Depew worked the state snowmobile trail for only two hours and issued eight tickets, including expired registrations, no trail permits, and operating while suspended.

CO Richard Stowe investigated an illegal kill in which an elk hunter shot a 5x5 bull, thinking it was an antlerless elk. The hunter reported himself, and was cooperative throughout the investigation. The case was referred to the local prosecuting attorney's office.

CO Eric Bottorff, PCO Jarred Ferguson and Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a call of a lost elk hunter in the Pigeon River Country (PRC) state forest. Upon arriving at the location, COs found that the hunter had walked out on his own. The COs made sure he was okay, but also discovered he shot an elk in the wrong management unit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Molnar, Richard Stowe and Sgt. Greg Drogowski teamed up to handle a recreational trespass complaint in which a subject shot a 6x7 bull elk on private property without permission. The landowner requested action be taken. The subject was ticketed for recreational trespass and the bull elk and license were seized.

CO Michael Feagan obtained a warrant on a habitual wildlife offender, regarding a deer season case involving untagged deer and baiting violations.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of road hunting east of Mancelona. Upon arrival, the COs stopped the vehicle, which contained two loaded firearms. While ticketing the subjects, another vehicle pulled up and a quick check revealed another loaded firearm. A third vehicle pulled up and COs discovered marijuana and a subject in illegal possession of a firearm. All vehicles were together from the same camp.

CO Andrea Erratt and Sgt. Jim Gorno assisted CO Mike Borkovich and PCO Mark Papineau on a case involving five hunters who were hunting on the Fox Islands. Complaints were received regarding their activity while on the island. The COs waited at Charlevoix for them to return by boat. Several tickets were issued, for trespassing and hunting during the closed season.

CO Andrea Albert stopped a suspicious vehicle traveling down a remote road in Antrim County on the last day of deer season. The stop resulted in a loaded rifle, an illegal deer, and one of the occupants going to jail for possessing a firearm against a court order.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of a subject hunting with a rifle and trespassing in Walloon. She contacted the hunter who admitted he was hunting deer and said he had left his muzzleloader at home. He was ticketed for possessing a rifle during muzzleloading season.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of shots coming from behind a residence. She contacted the subjects who were shooting rabbits over a small bait pile. One of the hunters was ticketed for not having a small game license.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a trespass complaint from a landowner. While they were looking for the trespassers, the subjects fled the scene in a vehicle; and in their haste to flee, failed to unload their firearms before they took off. CO Albert caught up with the subjects and issued tickets for trespassing and loaded guns in a vehicle.

COs Steve Speigl and Andrea Albert had some information about a subject who may have shot a deer illegally. The COs investigated and discovered that several subjects shot an eight-point buck from a vehicle, trespassed, and sold a license for \$20 to another individual.

CO Andrea Erratt traveled to Beaver Island on the second weekend of deer season. While there she made many contacts and checked dozens of hunters. Tickets were issued for baiting and hunting without a license.

CO Nick Torsky and PCO Matt Theunick, while checking elk kill sites, came across a red-tailed hawk that appeared injured. The hawk could not get out of the deep snow and fly away. PCO Theunick got a piece of wood and shoved it underneath the hawk's feet. The red-tail hawk grabbed onto the branch, PCO Theunick lifted the hawk out of the snow, and the bird flew away.

CO Kelly Ross and PCO Mark Depew responded to a complaint from Wildlife Biologist Brian Mastenbrook about a multiple elk kill in Cheboygan County during the December elk hunt. CO Duane Budreau was also dispatched to assist with the incident. The licensed elk hunter had a license for taking an antlerless elk. The hunter called in to report he had made a mistake and confessed to shooting two elk. PCO Depew and CO Kelly Ross investigated the scene and found two elk had been shot but both were spike bulls. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt reports a man she ticketed in September for third offense of fishing with an illegal device was found guilty and paid \$800 in fines and costs.

CO Andrea Albert followed tracks going into a remote area of state land in Antrim County. At the end of the tracks she discovered three illegal buildings built on state land. The occupant received tickets for state land use violations. The subject also went to jail for outstanding warrants.

On opening day of elk season, CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint from a guide that they had observed a hunter shooting two elk. About five minutes later the hunter called and said he had made a mistake. The elk hunter, who had shot two calves, was ticketed.

CO Steve Speigl received a complaint of trespass and possibly road hunting. During the investigation and interviews, CO Speigl obtained a confession and issued tickets for trespass and hunting from a motor vehicle. The eight-point buck was also seized.

CO Andrea Erratt arrested an individual on a five-count warrant on Monday. In October, CO Erratt and CO Duane Budreau had gone to a residence investigating a complaint of feeding deer and hunter harassment (the individual was driving around honking an air horn during prime hunting time). The individual and his girlfriend had already been verbally warned three times not to feed deer. The man resisted arrest and ended up with charges for two counts of resisting and obstructing an officer, feeding deer, hunter harassment, and operating a vehicle with an expired registration.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jeff Ginn found a blood trail leading into Newaygo County federal land that led to a tree stand and a pile of sugar beets. There was a faint name carved into the ladder of the stand. With some computer work he was able to locate a subject from Kent County. CO Ginn radioed the information to CO Dave Rodgers who went to the subject's home. A doe was recovered that had been tagged with an Allegan County tag that the subject admitted he had shot up in Newaygo County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells checked a trespass complaint in Newaygo County and tracked the trespassers to a fresh kill site. A vehicle license number from the complainant led CO Wells to a house where he recovered two antlerless deer that had been tagged with Mecosta County tags. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded at 4:00 a.m. to a request for assistance from MSP troopers who had stopped a car with an untagged deer in the back. The investigation revealed that the three subjects had shined and shot the deer and also were in possession of a loaded 7mm mag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher contacted a subject removing a button buck from woods in Newaygo County. The man swore he thought the deer had antlers when he shot it. He had no antlerless permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn was checking some anglers along the Muskegon River when he came upon a subject wading in the river. The man was very surprised and agitated. He could

not understand why a CO would be checking fishing licenses when the muzzleloading deer season was going on. A computer check revealed three outstanding warrants including one for armed robbery. The man was lodged in the Newaygo County jail.

CO Mike Bomay was patrolling in Mecosta County when he observed a steaming deer hanging from a tree in a yard. A check of the tag showed the license had been purchased after dark on that day. The subject from the house admitted he did not have a license when he shot the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Diane Drogowski, while working complaints of road hunting activity, observed a vehicle turn into a driveway and back out and stop in the roadway. The driver's window was down, and when he saw the CO, he had a nervous look on his face. CO Drogowski contacted the driver and his passenger, a father and son. The father stated that they were just scouting for hunting. CO Drogowski asked them if there were any firearms in the vehicle and the father stated that there were. Upon checking the two firearms, one of the shotguns was found to be uncased and loaded. A grouse was also found in the vehicle and the father stated that he was so proud because this was his son's first bird. The father stated that he was teaching his son to hunt, but he was only dressed in sweatpants and a light jacket and the two did not have any hunter orange. When the CO asked to see their hunting licenses, the son did not have a license. It was determined that neither the father nor the son had ever taken hunter safety. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Converse and Brian Brosky were conducting follow-up investigations at a deer processor when a subject brought in a whole deer from Kansas. The subject had just arrived home from a hunt in Kansas, and was unaware of the state's CWD status and the regulations pertaining to importation. The COs found that one additional subject had also brought in a deer from Kansas, and contacted him at his residence. Both deer were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was investigating at a processor in Manistee County when a subject arrived to drop off a deer that she had shot. CO Converse checked the deer and found that it was not tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was checking an antlerless deer when he observed that it was improperly tagged with a firearm license. CO Converse found the subject had taken the doe for his wife, who was a successful applicant. When CO Converse asked the wife for her antlerless tag, she advised that she had forgotten to purchase it and gave her husband her firearm license to tag the deer instead. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Troy Mueller and Brian Lebel responded to an Osceola County complaint of suspicious activity. The COs questioned a subject about an untagged deer. The man admitted he had a doe he had shot hanging in his pole barn and was just about to tag it with a friend's antlerless tag. The COs advised him that he could not use someone else tag on a deer he had shot. The subject admitted he did not have an antlerless tag of his own. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint of possible bait, and upon investigating, found a large pile of corn, carrots and beets as well as numerous bird feeders near a hunting blind. CO Espinoza followed tracks in the snow and found the subject. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper received final disposition on a snagging case from the fall resulting in \$520 in restitution for snagged salmon.

CO Sam Koscinski conducted a deer processor inspection in Wexford County which resulted in at least one illegal deer. CO Koscinski found a nice eight-point buck tagged with a firearm kill tag that was purchased on December 7th. The deer was taken by the processor's wife on December 8th. Upon interviewing the wife, she admitted that she went bow hunting on December 8th and along with her bow she had a 410 shotgun. She told the CO that they had many nice deer heads on their walls, but she only had the spike horn. When the eight-point came along while she was hunting, she did not want to screw up and miss him with the bow, so she shot it with her 410. The CO will be seeking prosecution for taking the deer with a firearm during the closed season.

DISTRICT 5

CO Matt Liestenfeltz responded to the scene of a snowmobile accident where a snowmobile had hit the wall of a pier on a local lake causing extensive damage. The owner of the snowmobile arrived on scene while CO Liestenfeltz was conducting his investigation and told the CO that he had hit the wall a week earlier. The snowmobile was unregistered and had no current trail permit. In addition, the owner had failed to report the accident to police. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Hearn and Andrea Albert contacted a subject who had deer carcass parts at his residence but had not purchased a deer hunting license this year. An interview with the subject led to a confession from the subject that he had shot a deer with a crossbow from his garage.

CO Bobbi Bashore conducted follow-up investigations on subjects with prior felony convictions whom she had contacted while they were out hunting with rifles during the firearm deer season. The investigations resulted in two warrants being requested for persons with felony convictions who were in possession of a firearm.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a baiting complaint and contacted several hunters who claimed they were not using bait. A check of their hunt locations revealed they had buried the piles of bait with snow when they saw the CO approach the area. Tickets were issued.

CO Mike Hearn spoke to a farmer who had problems with subjects on snowmobiles trespassing on his property and riding through his wheat fields. Officer Hearn advised the farmer to call when the snowmobiles were on his property. Shortly thereafter, the farmer called to report that the snowmobiles had returned. CO Hearn contacted two snowmobile operators in the field. One snowmobile had broken down and the second operator stayed to help while a third left the area. A local deputy located the third

snowmobile operating nearby and attempted to stop the subject who initially fled but was eventually stopped and determined to have an expired registration. All three subjects were ticketed for recreational trespass.

Near the end of hunting hours, CO Brian Engelhard located a parked vehicle with an empty gun case inside. A short while later, a hunter stumbled out of the woods and fell down. The hunter's speech was slurred. The subject admitted to drinking several beers and an empty vodka bottle was found in the car. The subject failed the sobriety tests administered by CO Engelhard and was arrested for hunting while intoxicated.

CO Rebecca Hopkins encountered a hunter whose vehicle had become stuck on state land and, after assisting in getting his car freed, she asked about his hunting season. The subject told CO Hopkins he had killed a deer on opening day. When asked for his hunting license, the subject produced both combo license tags and then confessed to not having tagged the deer. A ticket was issued.

CO Rebecca Hopkins helped to free a deer that was stuck in the ice on Tawas Lake with the assistance of a citizen and his airboat.

CO Steve Lockwood followed vehicle tracks on state land which led to a hunting camp where the vehicle was found stuck. CO Lockwood observed blood in the snow and started asking the hunters about their hunting success. All fingers pointed to a subject who was no longer at the camp. CO Lockwood ran a license check on the mystery subject and determined that he had not purchased any deer licenses. COs Nick Atkin and Chad Foerster assisted Officer Lockwood in locating the subject who confessed to shooting the deer without a license.

COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg observed two hunters sitting in a truck on state land. They checked the truck and found a loaded, uncased firearm in the vehicle. While talking with the subjects, the COs learned that one of them had killed a buck during the firearm season. However, the hunter still possessed all of his kill tags. The subject confessed to tagging the deer with his brother's kill tag. During the conversation, CO Lundberg observed a drop of blood on the ground. After obtaining the first confession, CO Lockwood asked about the blood which led to a freshly killed deer hidden in the bed of the truck under a cover. The hunters confessed to having just shot a doe in Gladwin County which they tagged with an Alcona County doe permit since they did not possess a permit for Gladwin County. Several tickets were issued.

DISTRICT 6

Sgt. Tony Soave was driving a section of land at the request of the property owner to see if the land could be used as part of a deer decoy operation to deal with the numerous deer poaching incidents on the landowner's property. Sgt. Soave observed a vehicle pulled over to the side of the road and a trapper coming up out of the ditch. The trapper had two rifles in the back seat of the truck, one of which was loaded. He also had untagged muskrat traps and an expired driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni is handling an ongoing investigation at the Double-T Ranch captive cervid facility. This involves numerous paperwork and inventory violations as well as completing an audit. Several whitetail deer are missing from the enclosure with no inventory records justifying the discrepancy.

CO Robert Hobkirk was patrolling the Minden State Game Area (SGA) and found three deer hanging at a camp. A short while later, a snowmobile came out of the woods to the camp dragging a six-point buck. The buck was untagged and the hunter handed CO Hobkirk a validated tag and explained how he accidentally validated his tag by mistake when his son shot a buck during the youth firearm deer season. The hunter confessed to shooting the buck without a license when CO Hobkirk pointed out that the deer license was purchased on November 14th.

CO Robert Hobkirk arrived on scene of a complaint of a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road with the headlights off. CO Hobkirk found an untagged deer that was shot from the roadway and dragged out to the car. The wife of the driver admitted to shooting the deer and trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk came across two subjects outside a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road after dark. A check of the vehicle revealed a loaded muzzleloader and shotgun in the car even after both subjects convincingly told CO Hobkirk both firearms were unloaded. Tickets were written for the violations.

CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a trespass complaint where the property owner witnessed a hunter coming out from his woods carrying what appeared to be a muzzleloader. Upon locating the trespasser and the firearm he was carrying, CO Hobkirk discovered that the firearm was really a .243 rifle altered to look like a muzzleloader. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith and PCO Seth Rhodea received a complaint of a subject shooting a bobcat in the Upper Peninsula during the trapping only season. The hunter admitted to the violation and a ticket was issued.

CO Jason Smith and PCO Seth Rhodea investigated a complaint of a subject chasing and shooting deer from his snowmobile. A gut shot doe was found in the area of the snowmobile tracks and the snowmobiler confessed to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was first on the scene of a traffic accident. Upon contacting the occupants who were standing outside of the vehicle in the ditch, the driver was drinking a beer and appeared to be heavily intoxicated. The subject was lodged after failing sobriety tests.

CO Joshua Wright observed two untagged deer hanging in front of a residence and left his card for the homeowners to call. Upon returning to the residence without a phone call, CO Wright spoke with two hunters and ticketed both for the untagged deer.

CO Joshua Wright observed a large fire burning from quite a distance. Upon investigating, CO Wright contacted the property owner who was a local volunteer firefighter. The subject had thrown used plastic grain bags on the fire and admitted he should not be burning plastic. Enforcement was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling the last day of deer season when he observed a hunter walking a ditch row and then exit out to the road. CO Wright smelled alcohol on the hunter's breath and found two open beers in his coat pockets. The subject's 13 year old nephew came out of the woods several yards down the road. CO Wright contacted the boy's father to come pick him up and lodged the hunter for hunting while intoxicated and allowing his nephew to hunt unsupervised.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when he located a subject dragging a deer next to the road. Upon contact, CO Atkin observed the deer was not tagged. Further investigation revealed an uncased firearm in the subject's motor vehicle and that he did not have a kill tag in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly and CO Nick Atkin were on patrol when they observed a truck parked on the wrong side of the road. The COs investigated the illegally parked vehicle and found a bag of beets in the bed area. The COs were able to track the subject in the snow and located him in the process of dumping beets in front of his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss attempted to stop four hunters for violating the hunter orange law. Three of the hunters came to CO Goss while the fourth fled on foot. COs Phil Hudson and Ken Lowell assisted CO Goss with searching for the subject who fled. During the search the COs learned that the subject had a warrant for his arrest. Four miles and several hours later the COs located and arrested the subject. Enforcement action was taken for the hunter orange violation, resist and obstruct police, and the outstanding warrant.

While patrolling the Maple River SGA, COs Phil Hudson and Jeremy Payne observed a vehicle driving slowly. The vehicle stopped and the driver exited with a muzzleloader and then immediately re-entered his vehicle without placing the firearm in a case. While attempting to stop the vehicle, the COs observed the subject attempting to extract the percussion cap from the firearm and place it into a case. Further investigation revealed a Derringer pistol loaded and capped in the drivers pocket. Enforcement action was taken.

On the last day of firearm deer season, CO Daniel Lee received a complaint of shots fired two hours after dark. Officer Lee responded to the location and observed fresh tracks in the newly fallen snow. The CO followed the footprints, sled marks, and blood in the snow from the road to a gut pile, which was on the complainant's property. He then backtracked the footprints leading to the gut pile over a mile, crossing a creek three times, to a residence where he observed a truck with bloody snow. Contact was made and two subjects were ticketed for violations including trespass, hunting without a

license and hunting after hours.

CO Daniel Lee received a complaint of a subject hunting over bait. CO Lee contacted the subject, who was not wearing hunter orange, and found that he was aware the stand had been baited, but was told it had been cleaned up. Any attempt to clean up the bait left the corn and sugar beets behind. Further investigation revealed the subject's juvenile son hunting across the street on a different property. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a complaint of hunting and shooting after hours, CO Larn Strawn observed a vehicle leave the subject's house. After stopping the vehicle, CO Strawn discovered a muzzleloader uncased on the passenger seat of the truck. The driver explained that he did not have a case for the firearm and that he and his friend had shot their muzzleloaders after dark. The driver said the two of them discharged their muzzleloaders into the air so they could clean them. CO Strawn warned them both of the hazards of shooting into the sky after dark.

CO Chad Foerster observed a vehicle circling an area, driving very slowly, stopping, and starting where deer are known to frequent. CO Foerster stopped the subject vehicle and found two loaded muzzleloaders, one of which was in a case and partially unzipped between the driver and passenger seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster assisted Gladwin County CO Steve Lockwood with his investigation of a possible illegal deer. CO Foerster located and interviewed the subject; confessions were obtained and the illegal deer seized.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike Mshar investigated a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped along a roadway. During his investigation, he located a validated kill tag on one of the carcasses and identified a subject. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar, while off duty, was accompanying an elk hunter seeking a bull elk during the December hunt in Otsego County. While traveling along a road in heavy snow, he witnessed a vehicle stop, an occupant leave the vehicle and shoot a cow elk with a rifle from the roadway. After shooting the elk, the driver and passenger exchanged coats and the rifle as CO Mshar observed the activity which appeared suspicious. It was determined later that the actual tag holder did not shoot the elk but had remained seated in the vehicle while a member of his party made the kill. CO Mshar identified himself as a Michigan conservation officer and obtained the subject's information and turned the situation over to the local CO.

COs Chris Holmes and Paul Higashi responded to a complaint of a shot fired near a residence in Kalamazoo County. Their investigation led to two persons being ticketed for trespassing and one for an untagged deer.

COs Mike McGee and Jeff Robinette worked a patrol targeting hunters bringing deer into Michigan from other states along the I-94 corridor. COs are working to address deer importation regulations from CWD positive States.

COs Zach Doss and Andy Bauer contacted a hunter who was in possession of a deer on the opening day of muzzleloading season. The subject did not have a tag for the deer. Further checking found that the deer had been shot with buckshot. The subject confessed to killing the deer with a shotgun.

CO Ken Cerny and Sgt. Robert Torres contacted a subject deer hunting during the muzzleloader season in the Three Rivers State Game Area (SGA). The hunter advised the COs he had a really good season and that he had killed three deer thus far, two antlerless and one buck with three points. The hunter even showed the COs the buck taken via a photo on his cell phone. The subject then showed the COs an unused archery tag and an unused firearm tag. Further checking revealed the hunter had purchased two firearm kill tags and no antlerless tags.

CO Greg Patten investigated a complaint of a subject purchasing deer licenses while under a court ordered license revocation. When questioned, the subject stated he knew he could not hunt. He further stated he had purchased the deer tags for other people to fill. The subject was ticketed for purchasing hunting licenses while under a license revocation.

CO Gerard Goulette followed ORV tracks on state land which ended along a wetland that had some beaver activity. CO Goulette located a conibear trap set on land at a crossover trail. The subject was contacted and issued a ticket for the illegal set, along with warnings for the illegal operation of a ORV on SGA lands and untagged traps.

COs Steve Orange and Dave Rodgers responded to a recreational trespass complaint where a subject was reported to have shot at a deer on a company's property. Two subjects were held by local deputies. The COs located a hidden shotgun, waterfowl loads, and waterfowl decoys. Tickets issued included hunt deer without a license, hunt waterfowl without a license and recreational trespass. During the conversation, CO Rodgers determined that one of the subjects had previously shot a deer and failed to tag it. One last ticket was issued for the tagging violation.

Sgt. Dave Shaw assisted local authorities with the investigation of a reported hunting incident where a 16 year old was shot in the arm while playing in the field behind his residence. The youth reported being hit by a stray bullet from an unknown deer hunter. Sgt. Shaw, along with MSP troopers and local deputies, investigated the scene in an attempt to locate the responsible hunter. Sgt. Shaw was informed that the wound was small in diameter and that the youth stated he had been out the day before with an opossum gun. Inspection of the youth's outer clothing showed a muzzle imprint and powder burns on the sleeve. A local deputy located blood spots leading in and out of a barn behind the residence. A short search of the barn revealed a hidden .22 cal. rifle

with a spent shell casing still in the chamber. With this information, the local authorities obtained a full admission at the hospital to the accidental self inflicted injury.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jason J. Smith received a complaint from a witness who took pictures of two subjects who shot a deer on private property with a rifle during the muzzleloading season. CO Smith located the illegal deer in the subject's garage and interviewed the subjects about where the deer was taken. Their story was that the deer was shot near a town approximately 60 miles away from the site of the complaint. When CO Smith questioned the subjects about being in two places at one time and showed them the photos from the complainant, a full confession was received. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols recovered a stolen deer and returned it to the rightful owners.

CO Rich Nickols received a complaint from Consumers Energy that there were hunters trespassing on their property where they do not allow hunting activity. CO Nickols was able to determine that a 16 year old, whose grandparents lived nearby, trespassed onto Consumers' property and shot a deer. The grandson was hunting without adult supervision and tagged the deer with a tag from the wrong DMU. Enforcement action was taken.

On Thanksgiving weekend, CO Dan Bigger received a complaint that a subject was hunting with no hunter orange and was using a rifle in the shotgun zone. With the assistance of COs Jeff Walker and Al Mendez, the COs located the subject in question and contacted him at his residence where five illegal deer were located. Enforcement action was taken.

While in the drive-through line at a fast food restaurant, CO Dan Bigger observed that the truck in front of him had blood on the tailgate and deer legs sticking out the back. CO Bigger contacted the driver of the vehicle and received information that the antlerless deer had been shot in the wrong DMU. The subject stated that he was trying to use up all of his kill tags on the last day of firearm deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer received information that subjects were hunting from a combine while working in a corn field. CO Brewer witnessed the illegal hunting and contacted the subjects who admitted they knew it was illegal to hunt from a motor vehicle. The subjects stated they saw a large buck earlier in the day and did not want it to get away. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss received information on two separate recreational trespass incidents. The following violations occurred: fail to wear hunter orange, fail to tag a deer, use shotgun during muzzleloading season, and hunt without a license. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Jeff Walker received a complaint of a subject shooting from an ORV. The COs went to the scene and located a subject hunting in a tree who was not wearing any hunter orange. While Sgt. Bahlau was contacting the first subject, CO Walker went to the other side of the field to contact a second subject who was hunting with a shotgun during the muzzleloading season. As they were walking out of the woods, CO Walker observed a third subject with a scoped rifle pointed right at him. CO Walker ordered the subject to put the rifle down and was able to subdue the subject. While searching the subject, CO Walker found two loaded handguns and a switchblade concealed on the subject. Other violations included felonious assault on a law enforcement officer, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a concealed weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and hunt while intoxicated. Enforcement action was taken and two of the subjects were lodged in the local jail.

CO Pete Purdy observed a subject who was hunting waterfowl shoot at mallards 20 minutes after the hunting hours had ended. When CO Purdy contacted the subject it was noted that the gun was unplugged. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Ennett responded to a report that several snowmobiles were taking advantage of the one-half inch of snow, and were operating illegally. CO Ennett located and stopped four sleds operating on the shoulder of a busy paved road. All four were operating without helmets, registrations, or trail permits. They stated that they had worked all of the night before to get them up and running. They were test driving them when stopped. The most recent registration on one machine was 2005; one was 2001, while the other two had no decals on them at all. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon followed up on a previous baiting complaint. On his first visit, CO Rabon saw a large amount of pumpkins and left a business card requesting the subject give him a call. When the subject called back, CO Rabon advised him of the ban on baiting and feeding and asked that he remove the pumpkins. CO Rabon returned a second time and observed a salt lick and a plastic pop bottle filled with corn that had an opening to allow a deer to feed. The following weekend CO Rabon tried to contact the subject to question him about the salt lick and corn. On this third visit to the residence, CO Rabon observed large mounds of corn spread out in the rear yard of the residence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a trespass complaint and found one subject in a tree stand wearing full camouflage. As CO Kieft approached, the subject tried to sneak his orange hat on and stated it kept falling off. CO Kieft ordered him down from the stand and they went to locate a second subject. After seeing CO Kieft walking to his blind, the second subject, who was also wearing full camouflage, tried to sneak his orange vest on. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Brandon Kieft observed a local police officer contacting a hunter dressed in full camouflage and stopped to offer assistance. The subject claimed he had hit a deer with his truck and was walking the nearby property to try to locate it. The

subject's vehicle was searched and an uncased muzzleloader was located along with a spent 12-gauge shotgun shell on the passenger seat. With two sets of footprints in the snow following a blood trail and no damage to the vehicle, the subject was questioned further. He eventually admitted that he was not alone. Another hunter dressed in full camouflage was found hiding behind a nearby barn. CO Kieft and the local officer followed his tracks and located a loaded 12-gauge shotgun hidden in the snow. The two subjects eventually confessed to shooting a deer from the truck, possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, hunting without licenses, recreational trespass, and no hunter orange. Their firearms were seized and the second hunter was arrested on an outstanding warrant and transported to the jail. Warrants are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Brandon Kieft reports that a subject he arrested earlier this fall was found guilty of possessing a deer without a license and paid \$1,000 restitution and had his hunting privileges revoked for three years.

CO Ben Shively located a vehicle parked along a large parcel of private property after legal hunting hours on the last day of the firearm deer season. Following fresh tracks in the snow, CO Shively tracked a subject one half mile through the woods and located him sitting in a ladder stand 45 minutes after legal hunting hours with a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. When asked why he was on the private property he stated he thought he was on state land. CO Shively pointed out the No Trespassing signs posted every 100 feet along the property line. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively stopped a snowmobile traveling along a dirt road for operating on a public roadway and no trail permit. A check of the subject's driver's license showed that he was suspended. CO Shively had contacted the subject two weeks previous during the firearm deer season and ticketed him for not wearing hunter orange. This time the subject was ticketed for operating a snowmobile while his license was suspended.

CO Ben Shively stopped a snowmobile trespassing on posted private land. The operator was not wearing a helmet, trespassing, had never registered his snowmobile with the Secretary of State, was operating on a public roadway, and his driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau were patrolling in Macomb County when they discovered a vehicle parked off the side of the road near a wooded lot. After following the footprints, the COs located a camper. They knocked on the door and got no answer so they looked into the windows and saw two empty gun cases. Further investigation revealed footprints going away from the camper and into the woods. Approximately one-half hour later, two subjects exited the woods carrying loaded shotguns. The subjects said they were small game hunting; however, neither had a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel reports that the case of a subject taking a buck during the early antlerless season was closed in court. The subject pled guilty to taking a deer with a firearm

during the closed season and taking a coyote without a license. The subject paid \$1,600 in fines, costs and restitution, and had his hunting license revoked for three years. His firearm was also condemned.

While inspecting a deer processor, CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau found two untagged antlerless deer. The processor's records identified the subject who dropped off the deer and the COs contacted him. The subject admitted to shooting one deer but said his dog had eaten the kill tag off the deer. He later confessed to shooting both deer. He only had one tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau assisted CO Brian Engelhard and interviewed a subject who had purchased a hunting license in Alcona County while suspended due to back child support. The subject stated he knew he was suspended but wanted to know if the system would allow him to purchase a license. The unused kill tag was seized and turned over to CO Engelhard for prosecution.

CO Linda Scheidler responded to a complaint of a subject who was hunting without a license. The subject admitted to hunting without a license because he was starving and too poor to purchase a license. He also stated he refused to shoot an antlerless deer and only wanted to shoot a buck. The CO inquired about the subject's pop-up blind, muzzleloader, heater, cellular phone and cigarettes which the subject stated were all his. CO Scheidler explained that the license would have cost less than any of those items. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher responded to a complaint of shots fired. He pulled into a driveway in the area and observed three untagged antlerless deer hanging from a basketball pole. He contacted the property owner and his son who informed the CO the deer were shot by a friend. CO Lasher tracked down the friend who admitted to taking one of the deer. A short time later, the property owner produced two tags given to him by the farmer who farms the property. After interviewing the farmer and re-contacting the initial two subjects, the property owner's son admitted to taking both button bucks and not having a license for either. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich and Sgt. Tom Wanless inspected a deer processor. The COs located seven untagged deer and numerous tagging violations on other deer. Follow up will be conducted on the tagging issues.

CO John Borkovich contacted the operator of a vehicle and found the subject in possession of a muzzleloader which was loaded, including a cap, and uncased in the front seat. The subject admitted to shooting and killing a three-point buck and tagging it with his restricted combination license. He then stated that he shot at a six-point but never found it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich received a complaint of a subject transporting an elk in a vehicle. The license plate was obtained and CO Borkovich along with CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau attempted to contact the subject at his residence. The subject was a

convicted felon. Upon arriving at the subject's residence, the COs observed an elk head and antlers in the yard. As they knocked on the front door, the COs observed long guns in the house and no one answered the door. With the assistance of MSP and local police officers, the COs obtained a search warrant and over 30 firearms and a silencer were seized with the elk antlers and an untagged deer. During the search warrant, the subject returned home and was arrested, not only for the weapons violations, but for operating while impaired and driving while license suspended. The local authorities and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents are handling the weapons violations. The game violations are being handled by the COs. The subject linked the elk to a privately owned cervid facility that is under quarantine. That portion of the investigation continues.

CO Ben Shively was stopped by a motorist who stated that a commercial van was dumping liquid waste into Swartz Creek. CO Shively responded to the area and contacted the driver of the vehicle as he pulled into a residence. When asked what he was doing the subject stated he was dumping clean water into the stream from their tank and that he worked for a cleaning business that was cleaning a basement at the residence. CO Shively obtained his identification and returned to the stream and saw where the subject had drained his tank with a hose into the stream. The draining had left black debris all over the snow and showed where the flow of the water from the hose went into the stream. The subject had emptied his tank that was used for sucking up the standing water in the basement which contained ash, dirt, and other waste into the stream. CO Shively returned to the residence and ticketed the subject for illegal disposal of liquid waste into a stream.

CO Ben Shively located a vehicle parked in a No Hunting portion of Highland Recreation Area. A check of the vehicle showed bow hunting equipment in the vehicle. CO Shively followed the footprints from the vehicle into the No Hunting area and contacted a subject in a tree stand well within the No Hunting area. The subject was found to not have his name or address on his tree stand, was using screw in tree steps on state land, and hunting in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska watched as a subject climbed over a fence into a private marina in order to ice fish. The subject climbed over the wall, onto the marina's docks and then went down to the ice to fish. When the security guard and CO Szyska contacted the angler, they asked if he had permission at which time he stated no. CO Szyska asked why he was fishing there and he stated that he just could not help himself because on the internet they raved about how good the ice fishing was in the marina. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Mark Papineau and CO Todd Szyska were checking ice anglers when they observed two subjects riding ORVs onto the ice on Lake St. Clair. Neither of the riders were wearing helmets. The COs walked out to find them and they had parked their ORVs on the ice in order to walk into a private marina to ice fish. The COs also noted that neither ORV had current licenses. The COs found the ORV riders in the marina ice fishing, and found that the riders were a father and son team. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Mark Papineau and CO Todd Szyska responded to a trespass complaint they received from off duty CO Kris Kiel that involved the taking of a deer. The COs located evidence that verified the complaint. The subject in the complaint was known to CO Kiel because he had issued a ticket to him earlier in the season for hunting without a deer license. The COs ran a LEIN check on the subject and found he had three warrants for his arrest. The subject also had his privileges to purchase hunting licenses suspended. The COs went to the subject's residence and attempted contact. After several attempts, someone finally answered the door. After questioning several people on the whereabouts of the subject, the youngest female who had a 9 month old baby stated "I'm tired of the lies; he's hiding in the bedroom upstairs". PCO Papineau and CO Szyska went upstairs and found the subject hiding under the bed. Enforcement action was taken.